



Feb | 2021

For New Orleanians, Carnival season is a time marked by a visceral feeling of togetherness and the four Fs: Family, Food, Festivities, and Fun!

While the fun culminates on Mardi Gras day, the season is imbued with rich, centuries-old traditions, spanning generations. Its festivities last weeks filled with unity, diversity, light and laughter. We break bread together, make costumes together, watch parades together, and ultimately, we celebrate together.

For locals, Mardi Gras is a time of great camaraderie. We love the spectacle of it all, but really, we love the unspoken feeling of fellowship we find in the stranger standing next to us on the parade route. We always get excited to go see our cousin who is marching or riding—or maybe WE are that cousin! No matter, it's a city-wide time to come together and spread joy.

The pandemic has deprived us of many things, but for New Orleans, Mardi Gras is a cornerstone of our collective culture. As a native, you've likely been going to or marching in parades for as long as you can remember. This year will be different—much like after Katrina, when the city faced incredible loss and indefinite uncertainty. While we won't have floats rolling this year, thanks to the artists and creative carriers of the proverbial tradition-torch, there will still be spectacle and reason for celebration to facilitate togetherness and the four Fs just the same. House floats, of course! Visit kreweofhousefloats.org for a map of all the house floats!

You can go solo or corral those in your COVID-safe bubble to go see the sights. In a car or on foot, you can revel in the comfort of community and feel the gentle warmth of a smile form underneath your "Mardi Gras" mask.

It's the little things that keep us going in times of great precarity. Celebration is a form of honoring those we have lost; While we miss them immensely, we must find reasons to celebrate life and honor its precious, ephemeral nature. We can cherish their spirit and keep them alive in our hearts.

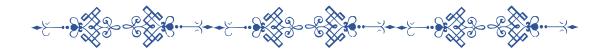
This Mardi Gras, let's come together with compassion for our neighbor and a big, sweet slice of King cake. King cake is ovular, symbolizing unity. With purple signifying justice, green conveying faith and gold representing power. Let's use our power for good, our faith to remind us we're not alone, that this too shall pass and our moral compass to guide us in our ongoing quest for justice for all.







## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



- \* Kinship is in the process of gathering yearly supporting documents:
  - ☑ Supplemental Security Income Award letters
  - ✓ Social Security Award letters
  - ✓ Pension Statements
  - ✓ State Identification
- \* Kinship will be making monthly deliveries of homecooked meals to our members, starting Friday, February 12th for the first 25 members to sign up. To reserve a meal, please call June.
  - ★ Please consider having copies of your documents ready and June can pick them up when he drops off your meal. Alternatively, you can also mail them into the center or drop them off in our mail slot.

## A Message from New Orleans Council on Aging:

The City of New Orleans has been informed that the Louisiana Department of Health will receive a limited number of doses of the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine to be given to Orleans Parish seniors 70+.

This system will be by appointment only; appointments through the 311 Call Center and an online registration system. They are hoping to target seniors in the following areas: **Lower 9th Ward**, **Hollygrove**, **N. Broad Corridor**. For this vaccine site, the seniors or their caregivers will need to be able to arrange their own transportation or schedule a RTA Paratransit ride if needed by calling (504) 827-7433.

In honor of Black History Month, consider supporting these local, Black-owned businesses for all your King cake cravings and more. Check out **Where Black NOLA Eats** on Facebook for more delicious cuisine!





